

## SOLVING WATERLOGGING Ecneec approves Tk 289 crore for excavating new canal in Ctg city

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Three years after receiving the project profile, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has finally approved a Tk 289.44 crore project for excavating a new canal in Chittagong city that would mitigate waterlogging problem in the city.

The approval came at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, confirmed Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) sources.

The city corporation will give Tk 72 crore for the project implementation, while the government will bear the remaining cost, said Rafiqul Islam, the project director, adding that the project is expected to be completed by June 2017.

The canal from Baraipara of Bahaddarhat to the river Karnaphuli is one of three canals, which were proposed in the drainage master plan formulated by

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## RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY Shibir brings out procession defying ban

RU CORRESPONDENT

Shibir activists of Rajshahi University (RU) unit yesterday brought out a protest procession on the campus defying a ban on such programmes by the university authorities.

Around 100 Shibir men led by RU unit Organising Secretary Shoyeb Shahriar brought out the procession behind the university's Central Library around 9:00am, witnesses said.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the Shibir men fled the scene after a while.

Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, said they had arrested Shibir activist Mehedi Hasan, a master's student of Islamic Studies Department, while fleeing.

On March 3, RU authorities imposed a ban on all types of procession, rally, and the use of megaphones on the campus following

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## RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE Victims, families still demanding compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Survivors and family members of those who died in the Rana Plaza collapse formed a human chain at the site in Savar yesterday demanding compensation for themselves, and capital punishment for those responsible for the tragedy.

The agitators under the banner of "Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity" formed the human chain. They also brought out a short procession on the Dhaka-Aricha highway to press home their demands.

The speakers said it is the right of the workers to be compensated. They added that if they are not compensated, they will go for tough demonstrations.

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Incessant rainfall for the last three days and subsequent waterlogging has left this road in BRTC area of Chittagong city in a terrible condition making it difficult for vehicles to move on it yesterday. The sight is common across the port city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Incessant rainfall leaves Ctg city roads battered

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Although the rain in Chittagong city let up yesterday after three consecutive days of downpour that submerged the city, miseries for the residents continued as the rain had damaged most of the streets.

Many of the city streets, including Agrabad Access Road, Sirajudoullah road and KB Aman Ali road, are dotted with potholes which make it difficult for drivers and rickshaw pullers to ply their vehicles, while a few are still submerged.

Md Kamal Uddin, president of Chittagong Auto-Rickshaw and Auto-Tempo Sramik Union, said the battered condition of the roads is also increasing the risk of accidents.

According to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), the network of paved and unpaved roads under the purview of the corporation is about 800km long, of which 100km has been damaged by the incessant rainfall. The network includes concrete roads, brick and dirt roads.

Monirul Huda, executive engineer (planning and development) of the city corporation, told The Daily Star that they are temporarily filling the potholes with bricks.

He said once the rain finally stops, they would start repair works on the roads that would cost about Tk 50 crore.

Meanwhile, commuters in the northern and southern parts of Chittagong district are also suffering due to the dilapidated condition of roads there.

The Dhaka-Chittagong highway, Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway and Chittagong-Rangamati-Khagrachhari highway are dotted potholes due to downpours as well as subsequent waterlogging.

Abdus Sattar Rony, general secretary of South Chittagong

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## BLOGGER RAJIB MURDER CASE

# Accused Sadman sent to jail upon surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Sadman Yaseer Mahmud, a former student of North South University (NSU), to jail in the blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider murder case.

Rajib, also an activist of Shahbagh movement, was hacked to death in the capital's Pallabi on February 15 last year.

Sadman, who was arrested on August 14 last year in this case, got released from jail on June 4 this year, as he was granted bail by the High Court on June 1.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on June 11 stayed the HC order and directed Sadman to surrender before the lower court in two weeks.

Accordingly, Sadman yesterday surrendered before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mostafizur Rahman, and the judge sent him to jail after rejecting his bail prayer.

On January 28 this year, detectives submitted a charge sheet to a Dhaka court against Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, chief of emerging militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team, and seven former students of NSU.

The charge sheet mentioned Jasimuddin as the "instigator", while Redwanul Azad Rana, one of the seven students, as the "planner".

Rana is on the run while Jasimuddin and five others -- Md Faisal Bin Nayem alias Dweep, Maksudul Hasan alias Anik, Md Ehsan Reza alias Rumman, Nayem Sikdar alias Iraj, Nafis Imtiaz -- are now in custody.

## UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS Strategy making role for Bangladesh urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should have an active role in formulating the United Nations' peacekeeping strategies as it is the highest troop-contributing country in the UN peacekeeping missions, observed speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The government should also set up its mission offices in the countries, where Bangladeshi peacekeepers were deployed, to explore other potentialities like business and job markets, they added.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the seminar on "Challenges to UN peace support operations, response and preparation: Bangladesh perspective" in collaboration with the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) at BISS in the capital, with BISS Director General Maj Gen SM Shafiuddin Ahmed in the chair.

The government should prepare its personnel by providing time-befitting trainings on sophisticated equipment, arms and other logistics so that they can maintain high professionalism in maintaining peace and human rights in the war-torn areas across the world, the speakers added.

Bangladesh took part in 54 UN peacekeeping missions out of the total 69, and a total of 126,489 troops participated in

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## IFAD to establish regional HQ in Dhaka soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will soon establish a regional headquarters in Dhaka to further expand its development activities here, said its Asia and the Pacific Director Hoonae Kim yesterday.

Apart from Bangladesh, the activities of three other nations--Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran--will be operated from the headquarters, she said at a view-exchange meeting in the capital's IDB Bhaban.

"A permanent office has been necessary in Dhaka, as in terms of receiving IFAD funds Bangladesh is the third major country in the portfolio of Asia Pacific Region after China and India," she added.

Kim arrived in Dhaka on Monday on a four-day official visit on the occasion of taking over the office by new Country Programme Manager Huber Boirard.

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## BB raises loan limit for exporters

STAR REPORT

The central bank yesterday increased the limit for manufacturers and exporters to borrow from the Export Development Fund (EDF)--to \$15 million from the existing \$12 million.

Members of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association can borrow the amount against letters of credit, firm export contracts and inland back to back LCs.

"This maximum borrowing limit is also admissible for member mills of BTMA making bulk import of raw cotton and other fibres against local deliveries of yarn to manufacturers-exporters through inland back to back LCs in foreign exchange," Bangladesh Bank said in a notice.

The EDF has become a popular instrument among the textile and garment makers for its lower interest rate compared to rates charged by private banks.

Currently, the textile and garment makers receive EDF loans at 2.5 percent interest rate. "Textile and garment makers will benefit from the central bank's move," said BTMA President Jahangir Alamin.

Textile makers can borrow money from the EDF for importing cotton only, not capital machinery, he said.

## Disgruntled Esrhad rants again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday claimed that the people wanted to see the Jatiya Party replace the two major political parties and their incumbent chiefs in power.

"The people are expecting us. None wants them [Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia] and their two parties. The people want to see the change," he told the induction ceremony of the new leadership of Jatiya Chhtra Samaj, the JP-backed student body, at Bangladesh Medical Association in the capital.

Ershad, also special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said he would respond to all oppression against him after getting to power and teach the two parties how to govern the country peacefully.

The JP chief, whose party is the main opposition in parliament now, said the BNP was a "confused party"

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Renowned poet, playwright, novelist and short story writer Syed Shamsul Haq (left) performs in a solo poetry recitation programme at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The performance was part of a series of programmes marking an exhibition of selected artworks by master painter SM Sultan titled "Paradrishti" (Second Sight) and was held in the gallery amid the evocative ambience of paintings and drawings.

PHOTO: STAR

## Three factions protest

FROM PAGE 3

A war crimes tribunal deferred the pronouncement of the verdict yesterday owing to the "illness of Nizami".

Imran said, "Jamaat always announces programmes before every verdict. But yesterday when they did not show any activity after the announcement of the verdict date, it raised our suspicion."

However, Pasha said, "We don't see there is any collusion between the government and any anti-liberation force...If government wanted to stall the trial, they could have done it much earlier."

According to Pasha, Nizami's illness may be an excuse created by his defence lawyers.

The three protest rallies were attended by some 150 people while the unified Gonojagoron Mancha movement used to see seas of humans.

The Mancha came into being after a war crimes tribunal jailed Jamaat leader Quader Mollah [who was later executed for war crimes] for life on February 5 last year.

The Pasha-led faction, known as pro-Awami League, openly opposed Imran's leadership and began to hold separate programmes under the Mancha banner since April.

However, the student organisations--Chhatra Moitree, JSD Chhatra League, Chhatra Andolon, Chhatra Samity and Chhatra Forum--had continued to support Imran.

But yesterday, Bappaditya Basu, president of Chhatra Moitree, said, "We are no longer with Imran because we had requested the two factions to resolve their conflict but they didn't." His allegation about the Nizami verdict postponement was the same as Pasha's. "It was a conspiracy by Nizami and Jamaat-Shibir," Basu said.

## Obituary

CITY DESK



Mohammad Ali Patoari, a director of Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) and also

a retired joint secretary, died in Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute in the capital on June 19.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, a former minister and a founder of BNP.

BNP Comilla district unit will hold a discussion at its office after Asr prayers, says a press release. A Quranic khawani and a milad mahfil will be held in his Dhaka residence and at Sanrish Saleha Girls High School in Comilla.

## Doctors in rural

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"We are investing much in the sector, but what my doctors are thinking? Do they have that sensitivity?" Nasim posed a question at the conference attended by public health and IT experts from home and abroad.

At the session, health ministry officials highlighted a dozen of electronic and mobile health initiatives, including telemedicine and electronic supervision systems.

Bangladesh has made remarkable successes in the health sector, said the minister, adding, "It does not appear when I go to villages that things have improved. People say they are not getting services. Doctors cannot be found in hospitals. It seems the indiscipline and irregularities have become a norm."

He mentioned that the recruitment process of some 6,500 doctors is being hampered due to police verification. "There are conflicts among the professionals. You have to come out of it," said the minister.

Lauding Bangladesh's advancement in e-health and m-health, the Philippine Undersecretary of Health Department Teodoro J Herbosa emphasised regional cooperation and partnership to share technologies and experiences of the health sector.

Pakistan health ministry additional secretary Saqib Aleem said, "Technologies will make public servants' lives difficult, but common people's lives easier."

DGHS Director General Prof Deen Mohammad Noorul Haq and its Additional Director General Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad also spoke at programme.

## BCL tries

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Eighteen students from science group were enrolled yesterday from the second merit list, while 40 from humanities group and 30 from business group will be admitted today.

Roky Kumar Ghosh, president of the college unit BCL, dismissed the allegations. He called the attackers "outsiders".

Rajshahi Government College, a top institution for higher secondary education in Rajshahi city, will enrol 600 students to the higher secondary section--300 from science group and 150 each from humanities and business studies groups.

The principal filed a general diary with Boalia Police Station in connection with the attack.

## Govt wasting time

FROM PAGE 3

bing the camp land. Even, the Urdu Speaking Peoples Youth Rehabilitation Movement submitted to the state minister for home a list of 50 people including the law-maker that they accused of the attack.

Citing from news reports, the NHRC chief said police had shot a businessman of Jessore in the leg for not paying Tk 10 lakh as extortion.

He may have to have the leg amputated, he said, adding that if the state did not take action against them, the prevailing culture of impunity would turn fatal.

About his recent visit to Rajshahi Central Jail and the safe home for women, Mizanur said the prisoners were "rotting" there because their appeals had been pending for years.

"Even, I came to know that the appeal of a prisoner has not been disposed of in 17 years. Where is the judiciary? Where are the jail authorities?" he fretted.

Mizanur said he identified at least 29 children in Rajshahi Central Jail who were below 18 but were not sent to juvenile correction centres since some judicial magistrates avoided the additional work of verifying their age.



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